

Lead Agency:
Riverside County
Superior Court

**Geographic Area and
Congressional
District Served:**
Riverside County;
Congressional
Districts 41, 44, 45
and 49

Federal Grant:
\$1.48 million/4 years

**Evaluation Design,
Comparison Group
Type and
Treatment Received:**
Quasi-experimental,
historical comparison
group

**Proposed Number
Served (4 years)**
Children: 1438
Adults: 575

Project Description

The Riverside County Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Project serves children and families participating in the Family Preservation Court (FPC). The CAM Project enhances the current network of services by providing the following key services:

- ***Nurturing Families Program*** – a 12-week evidence-based parenting education program using parent modeling, and coaching strategies; involves the entire family with parents and children participating together learn skills to prevent future child abuse and neglect;
- ***Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)*** – with the assistance of supervised interns, the MFT clinician meets individually with all new clients and identifies those in need of in-home visitation; reviews Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) assessments to identify mental health, trauma, and parenting concerns; provides recommendations and linkages for appropriate referrals; and provide short-term counseling;
- ***Public Health Nurses*** – Two public health nurse programs including *Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC)* and *SafeCare* to monitor the health needs of CAM children, and support case coordination of children.

Target Population

The FPC and CAM Project serve three distinct geographic areas of the County: Metro Riverside, Coachella Valley and Southwest Riverside County. The County, located in the southern part of California, is the fourth-most populous County in the state with a population of 2,189,600, and among the fastest-growing areas of the country. Services are provided to children ages 0–17 years and their families under two court-filing arrangements:

1. *FPC pre-file* – is an intensive court supervised program, designed to assist parents that have been identified as having a substance abuse problem and are at risk of losing their children due to neglect. The goal is to keep families together while providing intensified services. Families are referred prior to filing a petition with the Court.
2. *FPC post-file* cases are families who are referred to FPC after a petition is filed with the Court and children are removed from their home of origin.

Major Project Goals

- Expand the FPC's capacity to serve more children and families affected by parental methamphetamine use;
- Enhance FPC's capacity to provide a more expansive array of higher quality and culturally appropriate service.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

The Riverside County CAM Project include the following partners:

Child Welfare

- Department of Public Social Services

Courts

- Superior Court of California, Riverside County
- Juvenile Defense Panel

Substance Abuse Treatment

- Mental Health Systems, Inc.
- Betty Ford Institute
- ABC Recovery Center
- Betty Ford Children's Program
- Born Free residential treatment for pregnant women
- Casa Cecilia Residential
- Casa de Esmeralda Sober Living
- Cedar House Detox
- Chestnut House Sober Living
- House of Hope Desert Hot Springs
- House of Hope Banning
- Hemet Valley Detox Center
- Inland Valley Detox Center
- Inland Valley Residential Treatment Center
- La Vista Detox Center
- La Vista Residential Treatment Center
- Miriam's House Residential
- My Family, Inc. (MFI) Recovery
- Mom's Program Outpatient
- New Directions for Women Residential
- Omega Program Detox/Residential/Outpatient
- Our House Residential
- Shelter From The Storm Residential
- Step House Residential

CAM Program Description

Children Affected by Methamphetamine is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded grant program focused on expanding and/or enhancing services to children and their families who are affected by methamphetamine use and abuse. The Public Health Service Act of 2000 Section 509 provided funding over a four-year period to 12 Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC) to improve the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children, who are in, or at-risk of out-of-home placement as a result of parental methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

- Victory Outreach Residential
- Woodcrest Residential
- Whiteside Manor Residential
Treatment for Co-occurring Disorders

Education

- Riverside County Office of Education
- Head Start
- Inland Resource Center
- Bearhawk Education Services
- College of the Desert
- Mayfield College
- Palm Adult School
- Alternatives to Domestic Violence
- United Education Institute College
- Intercoast College

Evaluation

- Children and Family Futures

Behavioral and Mental Health

- Riverside County Department of
Mental Health (RCDMH)
- Shelter from the Storm

Health Services

- Riverside County Department of Public
Health
- Desert Aids Project
- Planned Parenthood
- Birth Choice of the Desert
- Hemet Community Clinic HIV/AIDS
Screening
- Family Care Centers
- Loma Linda Dental Clinic
- The Flying Doctors
- Family Care Center
- Inland Empire Health Plan
- Medically Indigent Services Program
- Vision USA

Other Community and Child and Family Services

- Salvation Army
- Catholic Charities
- Hemet Methodist Church

Performance Indicators

CAM grantees are measuring their performance on outcomes for children, adults and families. **The Riverside County CAM Project** bi-annually provides data on the following 18 performance indicators bi-annually.

Child/Youth Indicators

- Children remain at home
- Occurrence of child maltreatment
- Average length of stay in foster care
- Re-entries to foster care placement
- Timeliness of reunification
- Timeliness of permanency
- Prevention of substance-exposed
newborn
- Connection to supportive services
- Improved child well-being

Adult Indicators

- Access to substance abuse
treatment
- Retention in treatment
- Substance use
- Connection to supportive services
- Employment
- Criminal behavior

Family/Relationship Indicators

- Improved parenting
- Family relationships and functioning
- Risk/protective factors

Contact Information

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